

# WALK BY FAITH



## Facing the Tests of Secularism and Materialism!

Sunday, August 18, 2024

Hebrews 11:3-4

Hebrews 11:1-2 defines faith. In the remainder of the chapter, the author illustrates and explains how a life of faith is lived. James 1:2-3 says,

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.”

Without faith, it is impossible to please the Lord. As we continue studying Hebrews 11, we learn how to live by faith when facing the various trials and tests of life. In verses 3 and 4, we are reminded that we will face the tests of secularism and materialism.

### THE TEST OF SECULARISM (verse 3)

*Genesis 1-2; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17*

To live a life pleasing to God requires a view of the world that begins with faith in God!

#### Important definitions:

##### 1. Worldview

A worldview is the framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world. “[It’s] any ideology, philosophy, theology, movement or religion that provides an overarching approach to understanding God, the world and man’s relations to God and the world,” says David Noebel, author of *Understanding the Times*.

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**World-view** -noun: 1. The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world. 2. A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group.

Russ Bush simplifies the definition of a worldview by saying, “A worldview is the confession of a unifying perspective.”

An individual’s worldview is his or her basis for answering such questions as:

- Who am I?
- Where did I come from?
- Where am I going?
- What is true and what is false?
- How should I conduct my life, or act?
- Does God exist and if so what is my response to Him?

## 2. Secularism

Webster defines secularism as “ethical doctrine which advocates a moral code independent of all religious considerations or practices.”

Elwell Evangelical Dictionary: “[Secular Humanism is] A way of life and thought that is pursued without reference to God or religion.”

When a person or a culture adopts a secular worldview, there are significant implications morally, socially, and eternally!

- a. The foundation for developing a Christian worldview is faith. (Hebrews 11:3)

The word faith occurs 21x in Hebrews 11. “through faith” = 5x, “by faith” = 13x,

- Faith in divine origin – speaks of creation
- Faith in divine ownership – speaks of control
- Faith in divine order – speaks of command

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- b. The fire for living with a Christian worldview is faith! Hebrews 11:1)
  - Confidence – “assurance of things hoped for”
  - Conviction – “conviction of things not seen”
  - Commendation – “this is what the ancients were commended for”

## THE TEST OF MATERIALISM! (verse 4)

*Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:1-7*

To live a life pleasing to God requires a faith that is demonstrated in the practical ways we live and worship.

Materialism is defined as “the preoccupation with material things rather than intellectual or spiritual things.” Materialism has also been defined as “an attitude which ignores spiritual values.”

### 1. The Comparison - key words “faith” and “sacrifice”

- Abel gave from the first
- Abel gave from faith

### 2. For Consideration *Luke 12:15; 16:13; Ecclesiastes 5:10; 12:13*

A Christian worldview will shape and guide your stewardship of everything God has given you.

- Stewardship
- Generosity – “Some people never give anything that challenges them spiritually.”

### 3. The Conclusion *Matthew 6:19-21,33*

- A matter of the heart
- A matter of the hereafter